Listing of the Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended). An optical fiber collimator comprising:

a rod lens having an inclined surface **and a center axis**;

an optical fiber; and

an optical fiber chip arranged at a distance from said lens, said optical fiber chip holding an end portion of said optical fiber and having an end surface treated to be inclined, wherein an optical axis of said optical fiber is eccentric with respect ~~to a~~ **to the** center axis of said rod lens ~~to thereby set a quantity of eccentricity of said optical fiber so that~~ **such that** the center **axis** of said rod lens substantially coincides with a center of a light beam incident on said rod lens from said optical fiber, and wherein an optical path of the optical fiber is eccentric with respect to a center axis of the optical fiber chip.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented). An optical fiber collimator according to claim 1, wherein said rod lens is a gradient index rod lens.

Claim 3 (Canceled).

Claim 4 (Currently Amended). An optical fiber collimator according to claim 1, further comprising a cylindrical member which has a lens holding hole and an optical fiber chip holding hole formed so that the axes of said holding holes are **fixedly located and** shifted from each other, said lens and said optical fiber chip being inserted and fixed in said holding holes respectively to thereby be incorporated in said cylindrical member so that said optical fiber chip is made eccentric with respect to the center **axis** of said lens in a condition that said optical fiber is inserted and held in an optical fiber insertion hole formed in a center of said optical fiber chip.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended). An optical fiber collimator comprising:

a rod lens having an optical axis and an inclined surface;

an optical fiber having an optical axis and an inclined end surface; and

a holding member which holds the inclined surface of said rod lens and the inclined end surface of said optical fiber in confronting relation and spaced from one another a predetermined distance so that the optical axis of the optical fiber is located at an eccentric position with respect to the optical axis of the rod ~~lens.~~ **lens such that the optical axis of the rod lens coincides with a center of a light beam incident on said rod lens from said optical fiber.**

Claim 6 (Original). An optical fiber collimator according to claim 5, wherein the holding member includes a cylindrical optical fiber chip having a center and holding the optical fiber so that the optical axis of the optical fiber is located at an eccentric position with respect to the center of the cylindrical optical fiber chip.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented). An optical fiber collimator according to claim 6, wherein the holding member further includes a cylindrical member holding the rod lens and the optical fiber chip so that the rod lens and the optical fiber chip are concentric with respect to each other.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented). An optical fiber collimator according to claim 7, wherein the rod lens is a gradient index rod lens.

Claim 9 (Canceled).

Claim 10 (Original). An optical fiber collimator according to claim 5, wherein the holding member includes a cylindrical optical fiber chip having a center and holding the optical fiber on the center thereof, and a cylindrical member holding the lens and the optical fiber chip so that the optical axis of the lens is located at an eccentric position with respect to the center of the optical fiber chip.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented). An optical fiber collimator according to claim 10, wherein the rod lens is a gradient index rod lens.

Claim 12 (Canceled).

Claim 13 (Previously Presented). The optical fiber collimator of claim 1, wherein the optical fiber chip and the rod lens have equal outer diameters.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented). The optical fiber collimator of claim 1, wherein the optical fiber chip and the rod lens have different outer diameters.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented). The optical fiber collimator of claim 2, wherein said rod lens has a maximum outer diameter which is substantially equal to an outer diameter of the optical fiber chip, and wherein the rod lens and the optical fiber are secured to each other with a cylindrical member having a constant inner diameter.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented). The optical fiber collimator of claim 2, wherein a refractive-index distribution of the rod lens is given by:

$$n(r)^2 = n_0^2\{1-(g\bullet r)^2\},$$

where n(r) is a refractive index in a position at a distance r from a center axis of the rod lens, n_0 is a refractive index on the center axis, and g is a quadratic refractive-index distribution coefficient.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented). The optical fiber collimator of claim 1, wherein the inclination angles of the surfaces of the rod lens and the optical fiber chip and optical fiber are in a range from 4 to 8 degrees.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented). The optical fiber collimator of claim 1, wherein a cylindrical member having a through cavity in which said rod lens and said optical fiber chip are inserted from opposite ends thereof so that the inclined surfaces of the rod lens and the optical fiber chip and optical fiber are confronting and spaced from one another a predetermined distance.

Claim 19 (currently amended). The optical fiber collimator of claim 5, wherein a cylindrical member having a through cavity in which said rod lens and said optical fiber chip are inserted from opposite ends thereof so that the inclined surfaces of the rod lens ~~and the optical fiber chip~~ and optical fiber are confronting and spaced from one another a predetermined distance.

Claim 20 (currently amended). The optical fiber collimator of claim 5, wherein an optical path of the optical fiber is eccentric with respect to a center axis of the ~~optical fiber chip~~ **holding member**.

Claim 21 (currently amended). The optical fiber collimator of ~~claim 5~~ **claim 7**, wherein the optical fiber chip and the rod lens have equal outer diameters.